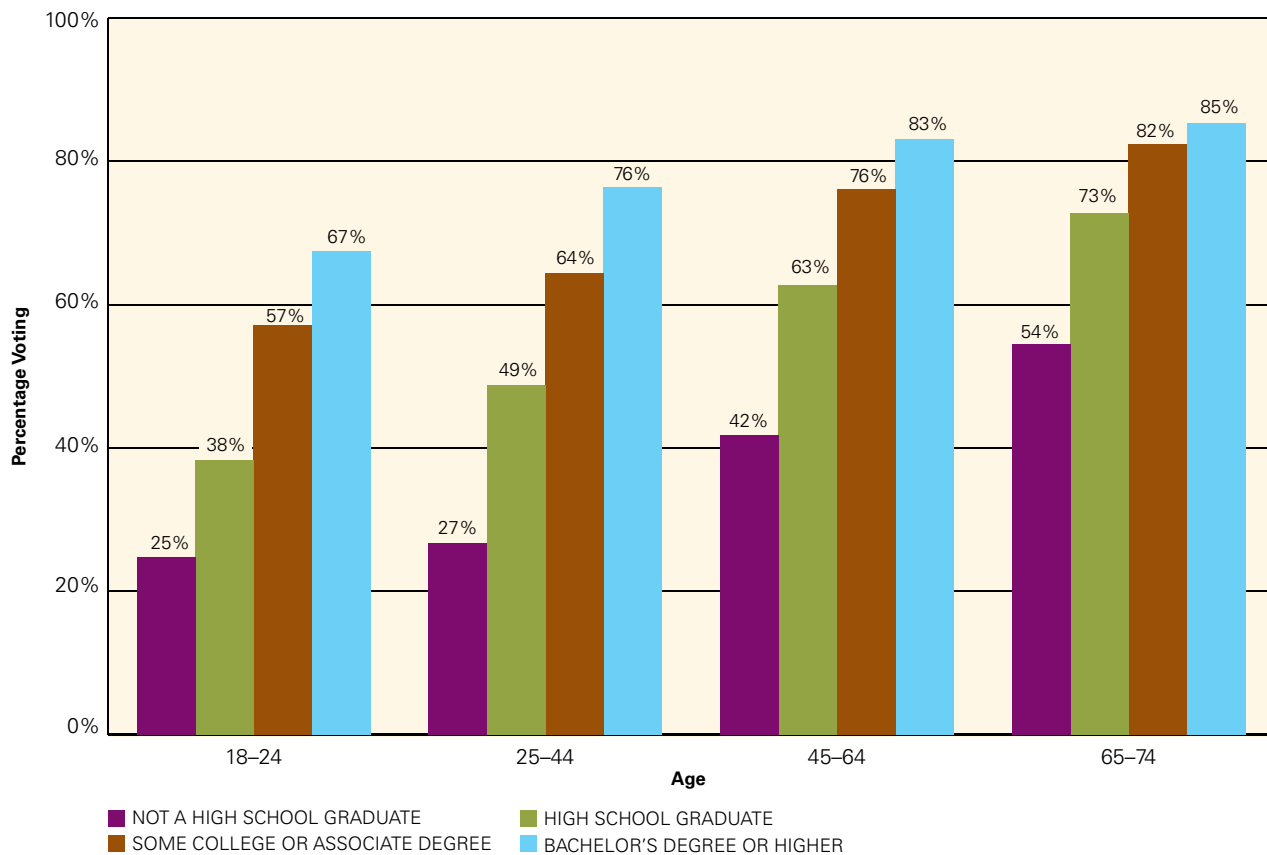


Voting

Figure 1.19: Percentage of U.S. Citizens Ages 25 and Older Who Voted, by Age and Education Level, 2004



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004, Table 5.

In every age group, adults with higher levels of education are more likely to vote than those with less education.

- In the 2004 presidential election, 76 percent of U.S. citizens who were college graduates between ages 25 and 44 reported voting, compared to 49 percent of high school graduates. Among citizens between ages 45 and 64, 83 percent of college graduates and 63 percent of high school graduates reported voting.
- Voting rates differ more by education level among young people than among older people. In 2004, the 67 percent participation rate among college graduates ages 18–24 was 29 percentage points higher than the 38 percent participation rate for high school graduates in that age group. The 85 percent participation rate among college graduates ages 65–74 was 12 percentage points higher than the 73 percent participation rate for high school graduates in that age group.

Also important:

- The 64 percent voting rate in the 2004 election was near the top of the 58–65 percent range of participation rates in presidential elections since 1972.
- Voting rates are lower in congressional elections than in presidential elections. For example, among U.S. citizens between ages 25 and 44, only 55 percent of college graduates and 29 percent of high school graduates reported voting in the 2002 congressional election (U.S. Census Bureau, 2002, Table 6).